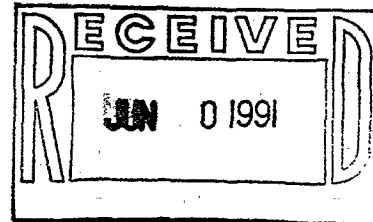




Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724

June 16th, 1991

Dr. Harmon C. McAllister
Research Director
The Council for Tobacco Research -USA
900 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022.



Dear Dr. McAllister,

We are writing to ask your support for an upcoming meeting entitled Molecular Biology of Signal Transduction in Plants which will be held Oct. 2nd to Oct. 6th, 1991 at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. This meeting will focus on the mechanisms by which plants perceive external signals (e.g. light) or internal signals (e.g. hormones), as well as their responses to these signals. The emphasis will be on the molecular understanding of these phenomena. The mechanism(s) of signal transduction is of great importance to the study of plant biology. Since plants are immobile, they have evolved highly regulated systems to respond to both external and internal stimuli. This is a field that has gained interest and importance over the last few years, with a wealth of new insights generated by the application of molecular biology. As a result, it has been selected as the theme for the first Cold Spring Harbor meeting on plants. This will also be the first major international conference dedicated solely to this topic.

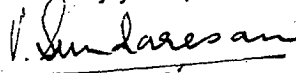
The conference will bring together about 200-250 participants who will be working on all the different aspects of the field, from receptors to transcription factors. A preliminary outline of the program is enclosed, along with the announcement letter. The organizers and session chairpersons have all made significant contributions to the field. In addition, a number of leading scientists who have made interesting new discoveries have agreed to participate and to give talks (e.g., Dr. Zsuzanna Schwartz-Sommer, Max-Planck Institute, FRG and Dr. Kiyatoka Okada, National Institute for Basic Biology, Japan). The meeting immediately precedes the International Congress of Plant Molecular Biology at Tucson, Arizona, and as a result we expect a considerable number of international applicants. [The CSHL meeting will differ significantly from the Tucson Congress in that the CSHL meeting will be highly interactive and focussed, and limited to a maximum of 250 participants (as opposed to 3000-5000 for the Tucson Congress)]. The emphasis of the meeting (as in all Cold Spring Harbor meetings) will be on recent unpublished results, and many of the talks will be decided on the basis of the abstracts submitted by the participants. This format encourages the active participation of junior scientists in addition to the more established investigators.

It is clear that this will be an important and timely conference. We have requested funds from the National Institutes of Health and other agencies to help defray travel costs for scientists, especially junior investigators. However, the budget of the National Institutes of Health is, as you are aware, in a state of near crisis. Despite extremely good reviews (our grant proposal for the meeting received a priority score of 121 and was placed in the 1.8 percentile of all proposals) we have recently been informed that we are unlikely to receive any funding from them. Consequently, we are looking to the generosity and long-term vision of corporations to help insure the success of this conference.

Should you be interested in making a contribution towards the costs of the meeting, we would appreciate knowing this as soon as possible and hearing the name of the appropriate contact for further details. All contributors are gratefully acknowledged in the abstracts book issued by CSHL Press at the time of the meeting.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request. Please contact me if you need any additional information regarding this conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "V. Sundaresan", written over a horizontal line.

Venkatesan Sundaresan, Ph.D.

Senior Staff Investigator.

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